

ClaimsWhat is claimed is:

1 1. A computer controlled display system for tracking the
2 development of complex software products having a
3 plurality of developmental lines comprising:
4 means for setting in each of said plurality of
5 developmental lines, a sequence of checkpoints;
6 means for tracking each of said developmental lines
7 to determine the reached checkpoints; and
8 means for displaying said plurality of developmental
9 lines and indicating said reached checkpoints.

1 2. The computer controlled display system of claim 1
2 further including:
3 means for modifying said developmental lines and
4 said checkpoints; and
5 means for displaying said modifications.

1 3. The computer controlled display system of claim 2
2 further including means for displaying at each of said
3 checkpoints, a set of developmental attributes for said
4 checkpoint.

1 4. The computer controlled display system of claim 3
2 further including:
3 means for modifying said developmental attributes
4 for each of said checkpoints; and
5 means for displaying said modifications at each of
6 said checkpoints.

1 5. The computer controlled display system of claim 3
2 wherein said developmental attributes include actions
3 performed in said software product development.

1 6. The computer controlled display system of claim 5
2 wherein said means for modifying said actions switch said
3 actions to other of said developmental lines.

1 7. The computer controlled display system of claim 2
2 wherein:

3 said means for tracking are remote from said means
4 for displaying,
5 and said system further includes:
6 means for storing, in association with said means
7 for displaying, the data tracked by said means for
8 tracking; and
9 means for communicating the data tracked to said
10 means for storing.

1 8. A method for tracking the development of complex
2 software products having a plurality of developmental
3 lines on a computer controlled display comprising:
4 setting in each of said plurality of developmental
5 lines, a sequence of checkpoints;
6 tracking each of said developmental lines to
7 determine the reached checkpoints; and
8 displaying said plurality of developmental lines and
9 indicating said reached checkpoints.

1 9. The method for tracking of claim 8 further including
2 the steps of:
3 modifying said developmental lines and said
4 checkpoints; and
5 displaying said modifications.

1 10. The method for tracking of claim 9 further including
2 the step of displaying at each of said checkpoints, a set
3 of developmental attributes for said checkpoint.

1 11. The method for tracking of claim 10 further
2 including the steps of:
3 modifying said developmental attributes of a
4 plurality of said checkpoints; and
5 displaying said modifications at each of said
6 modified checkpoints.

1 12. The method for tracking of claim 10 wherein said
2 developmental attributes include actions performed in
3 said software product development.

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1 13. The method for tracking of claim 12 wherein said
2 step of modifying said actions switches said actions to
3 other of said developmental lines.

1 14. The method for tracking of claim 9 wherein:
2 said step of tracking is carried out remote from
3 said displaying step,
4 and further including the steps of:
5 storing, in association with said displaying step,
6 the data tracked in said tracking step; and
7 communicating the data tracked to said storing step.

1 15. A computer program having code recorded on a
2 computer readable medium for tracking, on a computer
3 controlled display, the development of complex software
4 products having a plurality of developmental lines
5 comprising:

means for setting in each of said plurality of developmental lines, a sequence of checkpoints;

means for tracking each of said developmental lines to determine the reached checkpoints; and

means for displaying said plurality of developmental lines and indicating said reached checkpoints.

1 16. The computer program of claim 15 further including:
2 means for modifying said developmental lines and
3 said checkpoints; and
4 means for displaying said modifications.

1 17. The computer program of claim 16 further including
2 means for displaying at each of said checkpoints, a set
3 of developmental attributes for said checkpoint.

1 18. The computer program of claim 17 further including:
2 means for modifying said developmental attributes
3 for each of said checkpoints; and
4 means for displaying said modifications at each of
5 said checkpoints.

1 19. The computer program of claim 17 wherein said
2 developmental attributes include actions performed in
3 said software product development.

1 20. The computer program of claim 19 wherein said means
2 for modifying said actions switch said actions to other
3 of said developmental lines.

1 21. The computer program of claim 16 wherein:
2 said means for tracking are remote from said means
3 for displaying,
4 and said system further includes:
5 means for storing, in association with said means
6 for displaying, the data tracked by said means for
7 tracking; and
8 means for communicating the data tracked to said
9 means for storing.

1 22. A computer controlled display system for tracking
2 the building of a program product from a functional
3 implementation stage to a complete integrated program
4 product comprising:

5 a plurality of developmental lines respectively
6 corresponding to each of a plurality of program
7 components to be integrated into said complete program
8 product;

9 means for setting in each of said plurality of
10 developmental lines, a sequence of checkpoints;

11 means for tracking each of said developmental lines
12 to determine the reached checkpoints; and

13 means for displaying said plurality of developmental
14 lines and indicating said reached checkpoints.

1 23. The computer controlled display system of claim 22
2 further including means for displaying at each of said
3 checkpoints, a set of attributes for said checkpoint
4 related to the compatibility functions of said checkpoint
5 line.

1 24. The computer controlled display system of claim 23
2 further including:

3 means for modifying said attributes for each of said
4 checkpoints; and

5 means for displaying said modifications at each of
6 said checkpoints.

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1 25. A method for tracking, on a computer controlled
2 display, the building of a program product from a
3 functional implementation stage to a complete integrated
4 program product comprising:

5 setting up a plurality of developmental lines
6 respectively corresponding to each of a plurality of
7 program components to be integrated into said complete
8 program product;

9 setting up in each of said plurality of
10 developmental lines, a sequence of checkpoints;

11 tracking each of said developmental lines to
12 determine the reached checkpoints; and

13 displaying said plurality of developmental lines and
14 indicating said reached checkpoints.

1 26. The method for tracking of claim 25 further
2 including the step of displaying at each of said
3 checkpoints, a set of attributes for said checkpoint
4 related to the compatibility functions of said checkpoint
5 line.

1 27. The method for tracking of claim 26 further
2 including the steps of:

3 modifying said attributes for each of said
4 checkpoints; and

5 displaying said modifications at each of said
6 checkpoints.

1 28. A computer program having code recorded on a
2 computer readable medium for tracking, on a computer
3 controlled display, the building of a program product
4 from a functional implementation stage to a complete
5 integrated program product comprising:

6 means for tracking a plurality of developmental
7 lines respectively corresponding to each of a plurality
8 of program components to be integrated into said complete
9 program product;

10 means for setting in each of said plurality of
11 developmental lines, a sequence of checkpoints;

12 means for determining the reached checkpoints in
13 each of said plurality of developmental lines; and

14 means for displaying said plurality of developmental
15 lines and indicating said reached checkpoints.

1 29. The computer program of claim 28 further including
2 means for displaying at each of said checkpoints, a set
3 of attributes for said checkpoint related to the
4 compatibility functions of said checkpoint line.

1 30. The computer program of claim 29 further including:
2 means for modifying said attributes for each of said
3 checkpoints; and
4 means for displaying said modifications at each of
5 said checkpoints.